

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method of polymer extrusion, comprising the steps of:
providing an extruder having an extrusion head;
extruding an elongate polymer member;
solidifying the elongate polymer member wherein the elongate polymer member is
formed of a polymer having a melt temperature and a glass transition temperature; and
rotating the elongate polymer member downstream of the extrusion head while the
polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the polymer glass transition temperature
in order to impart molecular helical orientation to the elongate polymer member, without
allowing the polymer temperature to drop below the polymer glass transition temperature and the
step of rotating the polymer member downstream of the extrusion head is performed in close
proximity to the extrusion head such that the molecular helical orientation is imparted to the
elongate polymer member while the polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the
polymer glass transition temperature, without heating the elongate polymer member between the
extruding step and rotating step A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 2, wherein the
elongate polymer member is extruded at 10 fpm or more and rotated at 1000 rpm or more.

6. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 5, wherein the elongate polymer member is rotated at 3500 rpm or more.

7. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 5, wherein the elongate polymer member is rotated at a variable speed to vary the molecular helical orientation imparted to the elongate polymer member.

8. (currently amended) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim [[2]] 5, wherein the step of extruding the elongate polymer member comprises co-extruding two or more polymers.

9. (currently amended) A method of polymer extrusion, comprising the steps of: providing an extruder having an extrusion head; extruding an elongate polymer member, wherein the step of extruding the elongate polymer member comprises co-extruding two or more polymers; solidifying the elongate polymer member wherein the elongate polymer member is formed of a polymer having a melt temperature and a glass transition temperature; and rotating the elongate polymer member downstream of the extrusion head while the polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the polymer glass transition temperature in order to impart molecular helical orientation to the elongate polymer member, without allowing the polymer temperature to drop below the polymer glass transition temperature and the step of rotating the polymer member downstream of the extrusion head is performed in close proximity to the extrusion head such that the molecular helical orientation is imparted to the elongate polymer member while the polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the polymer glass transition temperature, without heating the elongate polymer member between the extruding step and rotating step ~~A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 8, wherein the step of co-extruding two or more polymers comprises intermittently co-extruding two or more polymers.~~

10. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 8, wherein the step of co-extruding two or more polymers comprises continuously co-extruding two or more polymers.

11. (currently amended) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim [[2]] 5, wherein the elongate polymer member is extruded over a core member.

12. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 11, wherein the core member is rotated with the elongate polymer member.

13. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 12, wherein the core member is removed from the polymer member.

14. (Currently amended) A method of polymer extrusion, comprising the steps of:
providing an extruder having an extrusion head;
extruding an elongate polymer member;
solidifying the elongate polymer member wherein the elongate polymer member is
formed of a polymer having a melt temperature and a glass transition temperature;
rotating the elongate polymer member downstream of the extrusion head while the
polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the polymer glass transition temperature
in order to impart molecular helical orientation to the elongate polymer member, without
allowing the polymer temperature to drop below the polymer glass transition temperature and the
step of rotating the polymer member downstream of the extrusion head is performed in close
proximity to the extrusion head such that the molecular helical orientation is imparted to the
elongate polymer member while the polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the
polymer glass transition temperature, without heating the elongate polymer member between the
extruding step and rotating step; A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 2, further
comprising the steps of:
feeding the elongate polymer member back into the extruder as a core member;
extruding a second elongate polymer member over the core member;
solidifying the second elongate polymer member; and
rotating the second elongate polymer member downstream of the extrusion head while
the polymer is between the polymer melt temperature and the polymer glass transition
temperature in order to impart molecular helical orientation to the second elongate polymer
member.

15. (original) A method of polymer extrusion as in claim 14, wherein the second polymer member is rotated in a different direction than the first polymer member.

16-27. (canceled)